

## WE CLAIM:

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1. A method of communicating in a telecommunication system including at least one mobile station, the method including the step of:  
providing operating capabilities of the mobile station at a node associated with the mobile station wherein the node is upstream in a communication path from the mobile station.
  2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of providing includes: transmitting a list of operating capabilities from the mobile station to the node via a message.
  3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the message is a location update message.
  4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of providing includes storing the operating capabilities at the node.
  5. A method as claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:  
negotiating operating capabilities between the mobile station and a telecommunication element.
  6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the step of negotiating includes:  
comparing the operating capabilities stored at the node associated with the mobile station with operating capabilities stored at a node associated with the telecommunication element.
  7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the step of negotiating further includes:  
selecting operating capabilities based on operating capabilities that are stored in common by both nodes.
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*Cont*

8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating capabilities include codecs.
9. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating capabilities include security algorithms.
10. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the telecommunication element is any one of a mobile station, a terminal device or a node.
11. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the node associated with the mobile station is any one of a MSC, a VLR, a HLR or a GMSC.
12. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the node associated with the telecommunication element is a MSC, a VLR, a HLR or a GMSC.
13. A method of negotiating operating capabilities between a mobile station in a mobile telecommunications network and a network node, wherein said mobile telecommunications network includes a storage means associated with a switching centre serving said mobile station;  
the method including the step of:  
transmitting a list of one or more operating capabilities from said mobile station to the switching centre for storage in said storage means as part of a non-call based signal.
14. A method of providing operating capabilities of a mobile station at a telecommunications network node to a telecommunications element during a call set-up procedure between the mobile station and said telecommunications element, and wherein said telecommunications element transmits to the telecommunications network node a list of operating capabilities of the telecommunications element as part of the call set-up procedure, the method including the steps of:

transmitting a list of operating capabilities of said mobile station from a switching centre serving said mobile station to said telecommunication network node;

providing said list of operating capabilities at said telecommunications network node;

such that on initiation of a communication from said network element to said mobile station, said telecommunications network node internally selects one or more operating capabilities common to both the mobile station and the network element.

15. A telecommunication system including at least one mobile station and at least one node associated with the mobile station, the node including means for providing operating capabilities of the mobile station wherein the node is upstream in a communication path from the mobile station.

16. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the mobile station transmits a list of operating capabilities to the node via a message.

17. A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the message is a non-call based message

18. A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the message is a location update message.

19. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the node includes storage means for storing the operating capabilities.

20. A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the node includes storage means for storing the operating capabilities.

21. A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the node includes storage means for storing the operating capabilities.

22. A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the node includes storage means for storing the operating capabilities.

23. A system as claimed in claim 15, further including a telecommunication element and a node associated with the element wherein the mobile station and the element negotiate operating capabilities based on operating capabilities stored at respective nodes.

24. A system as claimed in claim 16, further including a telecommunication element and a node associated with the element wherein the mobile station and the element negotiate operating capabilities based on operating capabilities stored at respective nodes.

25. A system as claimed in claim 17, further including a telecommunication element and a node associated with the element wherein the mobile station and the element negotiate operating capabilities based on operating capabilities stored at respective nodes.

26. A system as claimed in claim 18, further including a telecommunication element and a node associated with the element wherein the mobile station and the element negotiate operating capabilities based on operating capabilities stored at respective nodes.

27. A system as claimed in claim 23 or 24, wherein the operating capabilities include codecs.

28. A system as claimed in claim 25 or 26, wherein the operating capabilities include codecs.

29. A system as claimed in claim 23 or 24, wherein the operating capabilities include security algorithms.

30. A system as claimed in claim 25 or 26, wherein the operating capabilities include security algorithms.

31. A system as claimed in claim 23 or 24 wherein the telecommunication element is any one of a mobile station, a terminal device or a node.

32. A system as claimed in claim 25 or 26, wherein the telecommunication element is any one of a mobile station, a terminal device or a node.

33. A system as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the node associated with the mobile station is any one of a MSC, a VLR, a HLR or a GMSC.

34. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the node associated with the mobile station is any one of a MSC, a VLR, a HLR or a GMSC.

35. A system as claimed in claim 23 or 24, wherein the node associated with the telecommunications element is any one of a MSC, a VLR, a HLR or a GMSC.

36. A system as claimed in claim 25 or 26, wherein the node associated with the telecommunications element is any one of a MSC, a VLR, a HLR or a GMSC.

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